

Basic Detail Report

Title Interview with Billie Olaniyi

Date 19 March 2025

Medium born digital audio file

Description (a) Audio file of interview with Billie Olaniyi. She was interviewed by Karina Alvarado on 19 March 2025 in Norwalk, CT. (b) Video file of interview with Billie Olaniyi. Billie Olaniyi was interviewed as part of the Connecticut Museum of Culture and History's Community History Project discussing moments of change in her life. Billie discusses her transition from Nigeria to the US, her educational background, and career aspirations. Billie highlights the significant changes and decisions that led her to pursue further education in the US, emphasizing the challenges and opportunities this move presented. Billie talks about her family's reaction to her move to the US, their support, and her plans for them in the future. Billie expresses her desire to help her family migrate to the US once she obtains citizenship, highlighting the importance of family support in her journey. Billie reflects on the influence of Nigerian culture on her life and expresses gratitude for the opportunities and freedoms she has in the US. Billie discusses the negative aspects of Nigerian culture, such as arranged marriages and restrictive patterns, and contrasts them with her positive experiences in the US. Billie discusses her previous job in Nigeria, detailing her role and the communication dynamics in a predominantly deaf environment. She explains how she communicated effectively using sign language and the support systems in place at her workplace to facilitate communication with

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hearing individuals. Billie discusses her future goals, including obtaining citizenship, her educational aspirations, and her desire to help her family migrate to the US. Billie explains her choice of Connecticut due to the opportunities it offers for deaf individuals and the support system she has found here. Billie discusses the challenges she faced upon moving to the US, including adapting to a new language, American Sign Language, and the differences between it and British Sign Language, which she was accustomed to in Nigeria. Billie is also learning English as a second language and its significance. She discusses the challenges of adapting to a new educational system and the importance of language proficiency in securing a job in the US.

Dimensions Duration: 48 Minutes, 48 Seconds